

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 09675 301511Z

43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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R 301332Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO 'SECSTATE WASHDC 728

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 9675

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR, PINT, IS

SUBJECT : MRS MEIR'S "UNRECONSTRUCTED" VIEWS ON PEACE

REF: TEL AVIV 9521, 9638

1. MRS MEIR IN SPEECH TO AMERICAN JEWISH PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE NOV. 29 (TEXT UNAVAILABLE), DELIVERED AFTER SHE HAD APPROVED TEXT OF NEW LABOR PARTY DOCUMENT (TEL AVIV 9619), REPEATED A NUMBER OF HER WELL-KNOWN VIEWS ON ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE. SUMMARY BASED ON PRESS ACCOUNTS FOLLOWS:

A. MRS MEIR EXPRESSED DEEP SKEPTICISM ABOUT ARAB INTEREST IN PEACE NOTING THE ALGIERS SUMMIT HAD PUT FORWARD "IMPOSSIBLE PRECONDITIONS." SHE SAID THAT SHE HAD NOT HEARD OUT OF SUMMIT "ONE HOPEFUL WISH, ONE REAL DESIRE FOR PEACE."

B. ON STATE OF CEASEFIRE MRS MEIR HOPED THAT FIGHTING WOULD NOT RESUME BEFORE OPENING OF PEACE CONFERENCE, BUT SAID THAT SHE WAS NOT CONVINCED OF IT. SHE ADDED THAT ISRAEL REGRETTED THAT NO AGREEMENT HAD YET BEEN REACHED IN KILO-
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 09675 301511Z

METER 101 TALKS, BUT IT WAS HAPPY THAT TALKS WERE TAKING PLACE.

C. MRS MEIR DECLINED TO DRAW POSSIBLE ISREALI PEACE MAP. AT SAME TIME SHE STATED THAT ISRAEL MUST HAVE DEFENSIBLE BORDERS IN NORTH, JORDAN VALLEY AND SOUTH OF GAZA STRIP. EVERY JEWISH SETTLEMENT IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH GOVERNMENTAL APPROVAL, AND THEIR POSITION REFLECTED "A GENERAL CONCEPT THAT THEY WOULD BE WITHIN OUR DEFENSIBLE BORDERS."

D. MRS MEIR REITERATED HER OBJECTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES AS IMPLYING INDEFENSIBLE BORDERS AND UNRELIABLE PEACE TREATIES.

E. MRS MEIR, COMMENTING ON POSSIBLE PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS AT PEACE CONFERENCE, SAID SHE ENVISAGED SEPARATE TALKS WITH EACH ARAB STATE ON STRICTLY BILATERAL QUESTIONS, BUT CERTAIN BASIC PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY THE NATURE OF THE PEACE, WOULD BE OF COMMON INTEREST TO ALL PARTICIPANTS. ISRAEL WOULD OBJECT TO PARTICIPATION OF ARAFAT, OR OF ANY ADDITIONAL COUNTRY OR ORGANIZATION BEYOND THOSE WHICH MIGHT BE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY ORIGINAL PARTICIPANTS. SHE ADDED, "YOU WOULD BE SURPRISED HOW MANY VOLUNTEERS THERE ARE TO HELP US MAKE PEACE."

2. AS NOTED REFTTEL, IT REMAINS OPEN QUEST DEGREE TO WHICH NEW LABOR PARTY TOWARD MORE FLEXIBLE POSTURE ON PEACE ISSUES WILL AFFECT MRS MEIR. WE READ HER NOVEMBER 29 SPEECH AS MAKING IT CLEAR THAT HER PERSONAL VIEWS REMAIN FAIRLY HARD-LINE ON ISSUES SUCH AS BORDERS, JEWISH SETTLEMENT POLICY AND GUARANTEES AS ELEMENT OF PEACE. SPEECH ALSO SHOWS SHE IS NOT HESITANT TO STATE THESE VIEWS PUBLICLY. NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT MRS MEIR WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO BE AS INDEPENDENT OF, OR INDIFFERENT TO, CURRENTS OF OPINION WITHIN LABOR PARTY AS IN PAST. HER PERSONAL PREFERENCE WOULD BE TO CONTINUE HER WELL-ESTABLISHED PATTERN OF RELYING ON ONLY ONE OR TWO ADVISERS BEFORE REACHING KEY DECISIONS. BUT DISCONTENT WITHIN PARTY IN WAKE OF WAR HAS BEEN DIRECTED NOT ONLY AGAINST HER POLICIES, BUT ALSO AGAINST MANNER IN WHICH THEY WERE DECIDED UPON. THERE ARE REPORTS OF FRANK DEMANDS BEING ADDRESSED TO MRS MEIR BY MINISTERS AND PARTY LEADERS TO WIDEN FORTHWITH

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEL AV 09675 301511Z

HER RANGE OF CONSULTATION BEFORE TAKING DECISIONS.

3. IMPORTANT THING ABOUT NOV. 28 DEVELOPMENTS IN LABOR ALIGNMENT WAS ACHIEVEMENT OF COMPROMISE BY LEADERSHIP FOR PURPOSE OF UNIFYING PARTY FOR ELECTIONS. THIS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN NO MEAN ACCOMPLISHMENT. DETAILS CONTINUE TO EMERGE IN PRESS ABOUT INTENSE ACIMONY INSIDE LABOR PARTY IN DAYS PRECEDING NOV. 28 MEETING AND EXPRESSIONS OF SERIOUS IRRITATION BY MRS MEIR WITH

HER CRITICS, ALL OF WHICH REQUIRED CRASH EFFORT TO HEAL RIFT.
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